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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

ORIGINAL
FILE

In the Matter of:

Petition for Clarification and
Modification of Pay-Per-Call Rules

RM-7990

Policies and Rules Concerning
Interstate 900 Telecommunications
Services

CC Docket No. 91-65

REPLY COMMENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

The United States Telephone Association (USTA) respectfully submits these reply comments on the petition of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) and the comments filed July 8. USTA filed comments related to peripheral aspects of any possible further extension of the rules, restating two concerns - the inability of exchange carriers to implement inconsistent schemes for routing N00 traffic and the presumptive undesirability of having carriers act as societal monitors.

The Commission's Report and Order in CC Docket No. 91-65, 6 FCC Rcd 6166 (1991), recon. pending, made it clear that the Commission intended "to eliminat(e) the opportunity for pay-per-call services to avoid regulation by moving to other exchanges." (paragraph 83). The Commission stated it did not see a reason why the public might be better served when a pay-per-call service becomes free of regulation because that service uses an exchange

other than 900 (Id.) USTA agreed in its comments that consumer exploitation by virtue of pay-per-call migration was not in the public interest. (USTA Comments at 1.)

Some commenters view further action here as unnecessary, because of the clarity of the Report and Order, above, and because of the tariff changes made by interexchange carriers. (Comments of AT&T at 2-4; MCI at 1-3.)

USTA agrees with specific comments raised by Sprint and by Southwestern Bell. Sprint emphasizes that any action taken by the Commission should not deter or curtail 800 calling. (Comments of Sprint at 3.) Southwestern Bell also expresses concern about possible undesirable change in the nature of 800 calling. (Comments of Southwestern Bell at 2-3.) Southwestern Bell also notes that exchange carriers (rather than interexchange carriers) are typically the first recipient of complaints about exploitative pay-per-call services, though they are not responsible for them. (Id. at 2,5.)

The exchange carrier industry stands in a different place from interexchange carriers who normally provide the basic interstate 800 and 900 services. Exchange carriers, however, still recognize value in promotion of 800 calling generally, and want their customers to remain satisfied with the services they

receive. USTA, therefore, emphasizes that any further action the Commission may elect to take should be very carefully targeted.

Respectfully submitted,

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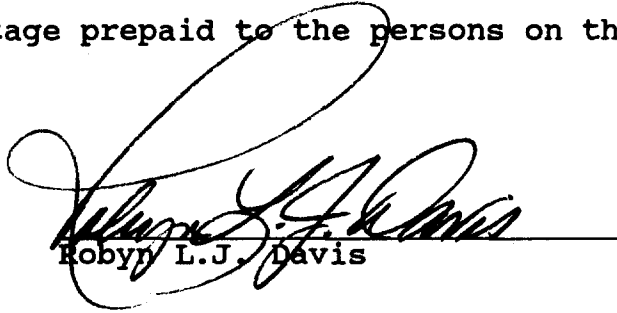
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July 28, 1992

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robyn L.J. Davis, do certify that on July 28, 1992
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